THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The big dams are helpful in mitigation of floods, especially if dedicated flood cushion is provided in the storage. The big dams are operated on the basis of specified rule curve as per Operation Manual of Reservoir which helps in flood mitigation.

(b) to (d) No such study has been conducted by the Government.

Special category to Rajasthan

†462. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of Rajasthan is very bad in comparison to States of special category where approximately 2/3 portion of the State is Thar desert and it has been declared drought affected area;

(b) whether Rajasthan would be given status of special category State viewing its condition; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per information provided by Central Water Commission, 32 blocks covering an area of 31969 Sq. Km. are covered under Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and 85 blocks covering an area of 198744 Sq. Km. are covered under Desert Development Programme (DDP).

(b) and (c) In order to give a boost to irrigation development in the drought prone areas of the country including in the State of Rajasthan, irrigation projects benefiting drought prone areas are also eligible for 90% of the project cost as central assistance under Accelerated Irrigation benefits Programme (AIBP) under the Ministry of Water Resources, which is at par with the special category States. Further, in normal cases, a new project could be included in AIBP only on completion of an ongoing project of the State, under AIBP. However, the projects benefiting drought prone areas could be considered for inclusion in AIBP in relaxation to one-to-one criteria.

Low level of ground water

†463. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a study by Planning Commission that the ground water level of 29 per cent block of the country has gone down critically low;

(b) if so, the details of ground water level, and the efforts being made to arrest the going down of the water level, State-wise;

(c) the means of irrigation in the total irrigated area; and

(d) the future plans of Government for irrigation of non-irrigated areas?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) According to Expert Group of Planning Commission on "Ground Water Management and Ownership", 29% of blocks of the country have been jointly assessed by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and State Governments as Semi-critical, Critical and Over-exploited. State-wise details of such blocks is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

Steps taken by the Government to arrest decline in level of ground water include:-

- Circulation of 'Model Bill' to enable States/Union Territories to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.
- Preparation and circulation of Manual on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water.
- Preparation and circulation of 'Master Plan on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water' to States/ Union Territories.
- Implementation of demonstrative schemes of artificial recharge of ground water by CGWB.
- Implementation of the Scheme of 'Artificial Recharge to Ground Water through Dugwells' in hard rock area in seven States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.
- Promotion of roof top rain water harvesting.
- Awareness for rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.

(c) and (d) The means of irrigation in the total irrigated area include both the surface and ground water sources *viz.* wells, tubewells, canals and irrigation tanks. Future plans for irrigation of non-irrigated area include adoption of water harvesting practices, recharging of ground water, command area development and optimal utilisation of water resources.

Statement

Categorization of Blocks/Mandals/Talukas in India (Assessment-2004)

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Total No. of Assessed Units	Over-exploited		Critical		Semi-Critical	
			Nos.	%	Nos.	%	Nos.	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	States							
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1231	219	18	77	6	175	14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	23	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	515	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	146	0	0	0	0	8	5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6.	Delhi	9	7	78	0	0	0	0
7.	Goa	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Gujarat	223	31	14	12	5	69	31
9.	Haryana	113	55	49	11	10	5	4
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Jharkhand	208	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Karnataka	175	65	37	3	2	14	8
14.	Kerala	151	5	3	15	10	30	20
15.	Madhya Pradesh	312	24	8	5	2	19	6
16.	Maharashtra	318	7	2	1	0	23	7
17.	Manipur	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Meghalaya	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Mizoram	22	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Nagaland	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Orissa	314	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Punjab	137	103	75	5	4	4	3
23.	Rajasthan	237	140	59	50	21	14	6
24.	Sikkim	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Tamil Nadu	385	142	37	33	9	57	15
26.	Tripura	38	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	803	37	5	13	2	88	11
28.	Uttarakhand	17	2	12	0	0	3	18
29.	West Bengal	269	0	0	1	0	37	14
	Total States	5705	837	15	226	4	546	10
	Union Territories							
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Chandigarh	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4.	Daman and Diu	2	1	50	0	0	1	50
5.	Lakshadweep	9	0	0	0	0	3	33
6.	Pondicherry	4	1	25	0	0	0	0
	Total UTs	18	2	11	0	0	4	22
	Grand Total	5723	839	15	226	4	550	10

Criteria for Categorization

Over-Exploited : Stage of Ground water development ->100%, Significant decline in long term water level trend in either pre-monsoon or post-monsoon period or both.

Critical : Stage of Ground Water Development ->90% and <=100%, Significant decline in long term water level trend in both pre-monsoon and post-monsoon period

Semi-Critical : Stage of Ground Water Development ->70% and <=100%, Significant decline in long term water level trend in either pre-monsoon or post-monsoon period

Embankment of Kosi river in Nepal

464. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the flood that wrecked havoc in North-Eastern Bihar was caused by the breach in the embankment of Kosi river in Nepal;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Central Government failed to read the alarm bells and to persuade Nepalese Government to at least allow proper maintenance of the barrage which had outlived its age;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Repair and maintenance of the afflux bund of Kosi Barrage is being carried out by the Government of Bihar and Government of Bihar informed Ministry of External Affairs about the problem faced in protection work being carried out, only on 17th August, 2008 just a day before the breach.

(d) Government of Nepal has been approached and Government of Nepal has provided necessary assistance in the works of breach closure. The work of breach closure is in progress on the advice of Kosi Breach Closure Advisory Team (KBCAT) constituted by the Government of Bihar.